



# NEWS

about  
Connecticut  
Women

## CT General Assembly

### Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

18-20 Trinity Street ■ Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 860.240.8300 ■ Fax: 860.240.8314

E-mail: [pcsw@po.state.ct.us](mailto:pcsw@po.state.ct.us)

Webaddress: [www.cga.state.ct.us/pcsw](http://www.cga.state.ct.us/pcsw)

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Contact: Susan Hoover, PCSW Special Projects Director  
860.240.8300/cell: 860.652.4448

### STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANDREA STILLMAN (D-38) AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE'S COMMISSION ON WOMEN HONORED FOR SEXUAL TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Hartford - At a luncheon sponsored by the U Thant Institute on June 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2004, Connecticut Representative Andrea Stillman (D-Waterford), along with the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), was recognized for her legislative work in the passage of Special Act 04-8. This bill establishes an interagency taskforce on trafficking of persons.

Stillman was first introduced to the topic during a conference she attended in Washington, D.C. at the Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators at the Center for Women Policy Studies. With cooperation from the PCSW, a legislative study committee comprised of law enforcement representatives, immigration organizations, social service agencies, support groups and legislators met to share information and concerns about the trafficking of women and children.

(MORE)

The result of the study committee was the eventual passage of the Special Act 04-8 and the creation of the taskforce. The PCSW will have the responsibility of organizing and overseeing this taskforce. Its work will include the collection and organization of data, models for protecting victims, and identifying state programs to provide necessary services to victims. The taskforce is charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly by January 2006 on how they can strengthen state and local laws in order to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers.

Stillman made it clear in her speech given at the U Thant Institute that the greatest problem law enforcement agencies face is the inability to identify trafficking since it resembles other crimes. She commented, "data collection and education of law enforcement personnel are some of the most important issues that need to be addressed." In conclusion, Stillman charged, "we need to ensure that our state laws and federal laws punish traffickers . . . it is time for policy makers to respond to the horrors of trafficking that could be taking place here in Connecticut and the United States".

For additional information on Special Act 04-8 and Trafficking, **please contact the PCSW at 860.240.8300 or email ([pcsw@po.state.ct.us](mailto:pcsw@po.state.ct.us))**.

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was established by the CT State Legislature in 1973. The Commission studies all matters concerning women, informs leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, serves as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, promotes consideration of women for governmental position and works with state agencies to assess programs and practices as they affect women.

The U Thant Institute is the newly formed nonprofit organization, founded by Daw Aye Aye U Thaut, the daughter of the former Secretary General of the United Nations.

###